STATEMENT

Category-wise number of employees of MITCO as on 31st March, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993 are as under:

Category	31-3-90	31-3-91	31-3-92	31-3-93*
Officers	139	134	123	109
Staff	351	349	336	326
Workers	913	913	655	629
TOTAL	1403	1396	1114	1064

(*includes 372 employees in different categories who retired on 31st March, 1993 afternoon under VRS.)

Category-wise number of employees who opted for VRS during the last three years were as under :

Category	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93£
Officers	3	9	11
Staff	1	12	8
Workers	—	258	26
TOTAL	4	279	45

(£excludes 372 employees in different categories who retired on 31st March, 1993 afternoon under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).)

Payments made to the executives (Officers) and the staff during the last three years are as under :

Year	Executives (Officers) and Staff
1990-91	Rs. 246 lakhs
1991-92	Rs. 302 lakhs
1992-93	Rs. 277 lakhs*

Category-wise payments made to the executives and the staff are not readily available.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF MICA

2335. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the production and export of Mica after decanalisation in the last three years, with facts and details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether Government have any plan to review the policy ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Export of Processed Mica was decanalised in October, 1990.

The production and export of mica during the last three years has been as under :—

(Qty. in tonnes)
(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Year	Production (Crude Mica)	Export	
		Qty.	Val.
1990-91	3827*	42506	5131.09
1991-92 *	3353*	34880	5547.88
1992-93	N.A.	27741	3834.73

(Source : IBM Nagpur) (Source : DGCI&S)
*Provisional.

Both production and exports of mica have shown a decline after decanalisation. However, this is largely attributable to changes in the global market on account of technological obsolescence; product substitution of certain forms of mica; changes in the former Soviet Union and East European countries which were major consumers of sheet mica and due to recessionary trends in the global economy.

(b) Government is constantly reviewing all possible avenues of increasing the export of mica and mica products in the changing global scenario;

BAN ON TOBACCO CULTIVATION AND EXPORTS

2336. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ban tobacco cultivation and tobacco exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what were the reaction of Government for anti-tobacco restriction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Despite anti-smoking campaign, the demand for tobacco is continuing and is likely to continue for some more years

MMTC'S PROPOSAL FOR JOINT VENTURE FOR EXPORTS

2337. SHRI RAMADAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared State owned MMTC's (Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation) proposal for setting up a joint-venture for boosting the exports of marine products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating MMTC's right to export, stake in the equity capital, location of project and total investment involved in rupees; in earlier stage and during full production stage; and

(c) whether Government had earlier approved MMTC's proposal for setting up a joint venture with another private enterprise; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.